Facilities in Government-run schools

2861. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what facilities have been provided to students of Government-run schools;

(b) whether functioning of the management of these schools is reviewed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that a large number of students drop out in-between in the Government-run schools; and

(e) whether Government plan to uplift the standards of these schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Operation Blackboard" (OB), envisages the provision of following facilities to Government-run schools:

(i) A minimum of two teachers per school, out of which one should be woman.

(ii) A minimum of two classrooms, per primary school.

(iii) Separate toilet facilities for boys and girls.

The District Primary Education Programme has provided an annual school grant of Rs. 1200/- per school and Rs. 500/- per teacher per school, for preparation of teaching learning material.

The recently launched "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" provides for the following:

(i) Free text books within an upper ceiling of Rs. 150/- per child for all girls and children belonging to SC/ST families at the primary and upper primary level.

(ii) Rs. 2,000/- per year for replacement of non-functional school equipment.

(iii) Rs. 10,000/- per school for teaching learning equipments for upgradation of EGS to regular school or setting up of a new primary school as per the State norms.

(iv) Rs. 50,000/- per school for uncovered upper primary schools for teaching learning equipment.

(b) and (c) The functioning of primary schools in many States are being monitored through Village Education Committees, Parents-Teachers Association etc.

(d) Drop outs have been declining at the primary level.

(e) The Government has launched a number of schemes to improve standard of schools at primary and secondary levels such as District Primary Education Programme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Jana Shala Programme, Lok Jumbish Project, Shiksha Karmi Project, Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS), Science Education, Environmental Orientation to School Education etc.

Education of Dalit children

2862. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the findings of the study report brought out by the National Institute of Educational Planning Administration (NIEPA), alongwith Oxford University Press, in respect of the Chapter on Education of Dalit children by Geetha B Nambisan and Mona Sedwal, that teachers refuse to touch SC children and these children are also special target of verbal abuse;

(b) if so, Government reaction in this regard and the remedial measures taken; and

(c) if not, what investigation Government have made to find the basis of this report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.